



**MINUTES OF THE
FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)**

DATE AND TIME: March 6, 2003 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: National Emergency Training Center
Room J-103
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

**MEMBER AGENCY
REPRESENTATION:** **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**
Mr. Hugh Wood
FICEMS Chairperson
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Charlie Dickinson
USFA Deputy Administrator

Mr. John Brasko
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Jeff Dyar
United States Fire Administration (USFA)

Mr. Bill Troup
United States Fire Administration

Department of Agriculture
No Representation

Federal Communications Commission
No Representation

Department of Defense (DOD)
No Representation

General Services Administration (GSA)

No Representation

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

Ms. Nancy Romano

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Department of Interior

No Representation

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Ms. Susan McHenry

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Department of Veteran Affairs

No Representation

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

No Representation

Department of Labor

No Representation

**OTHER FEDERAL
ATTENDEES:**

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Ms. Lula Lathan

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

Ms. C. Stacy Hardesty

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

Ms. Jeanette Young Reese

National Technical Information Service (NTIS)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

No Representation

**OTHER ATTENDEES
PRIVATE SECTOR:**

American Ambulance Association
Ms. Brenda Staffan

**American Society for Testing and Materials
(ASTM)**
Mr. Pete Chambers

DC Fire Department
Mr. Stephos Reid

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF)
Jonathan Moore

Medronic
Mr. Dave McGinnis

Trauma EMS – Technical Assistance Center
Mr. Terry Mullins

NATEK Incorporated/EMS Specialist
Ms. Sandy McMinn

**TELEPHONE
ATTENDEES:**

AAA
Brenda Staffan

IAFF
Jonathan Moore

Boston EMS
Representative

FICEMS Chairperson Mr. Hugh Wood called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone and explained how the group will proceed.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Wood called for open dialogue and other announcements. No further announcements were offered.

Mr. Hugh Wood announced that this meeting would be for information gathering and exchange rather than policy making, and discussed the ground rules.

Mr. Wood then introduced Mr. Charlie Dickinson, USFA Deputy Administrator (retired fire chief from Pittsburgh Fire Department), who expressed hope that the meeting would be productive. Mr. Dickinson conveyed that the role for USFA would be similar as before they moved into Homeland Security and that they would carry the banner for EMS into the future.

Mr. Wood indicated that Mr. Dickinson had been instrumental in interpreting policy issues from the NYC government with the Fire Department during the World Trade Center incident and thanked Mr. Dickinson for his work. He indicated that the Department of Homeland Security will have four divisions, and USFA will be well represented.

He then thanked the attendees for coming and introductions were made around the room.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chairperson requested approval of the FICEMS meeting minutes for September 5, 2002. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business discussed.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ambulance Design

No Representation, no further discussion.

Technology

No Representation. Dr. Arthur French is no longer in his current role with DOT. Bill Troup will contact him (**Action item**) before the next meeting to discuss outstanding issues as well as his vision and mission function for the committee.

Counter-Terrorism

Mr. Dyar reported that the subcommittee meeting will be today at 1:00 p.m. Gordon Sachs will be participating. Mr. Sachs is an experienced subject matter expert in the field of counter-terrorism who recently joined the USFA staff at NETC. There will be a handout listing the counter-terrorism activities of our member agencies and participating agencies available at the subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Wood introduced John Brasko of USFA's, Information Sharing and Analysis Center/Critical Infrastructure Protection Information Center (ISAC/CIPIC). John handed out the booklet The Critical Infrastructure Protection Process. He also introduced some of the functions and roles of these offices.

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) is the national focal point for gathering information on threats to critical infrastructures. It is the principal means of facilitating and coordinating the federal government's response to an incident, mitigating attacks, investigating threats, and monitoring reconstitution efforts.

The NIPC includes investigators and analysts experienced in computer crimes and infrastructure protection. It is linked electronically to the rest of the federal government, including other warning and operation centers, as well as private sector Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISAC).

The NIPC provides law enforcement and intelligence information and reports to relevant federal, state, and local agencies, private sector ISACs. Before disseminating such information, the NIPC coordinates with the intelligence community to protect national security interests.

The NIPC issues attack warnings to increase in threat conditions to private sector ISACs and the owners and operators along with appropriate guidance on additional protection measures to be taken.

Ambulance Occupant Safety

Ms. Nancy Romano, NIOSH, reported that the Ambulance Occupant Safety subcommittee meeting will be held today at 2:30 p.m.

V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS:

DOT: Ms. Susan McHenry

Ms. McHenry reported on these specific items:

- They are going through a major reorganization. Jeff Michael was promoted and Drew Dawson will become the new EMS Division Chief on

April 20, 2003. He will bring some great additional depth to the program in terms of his experience.

- The EMS Education Agenda project is still being worked on. (A systematic approach to how we may change the way we do EMS education). The project consists of 5 components. The first component is development of the core content. Everything that EMS may be expected to do, know or think about in their practice. That component is just about completed. The second component (to develop a national model scope of practice) has been started. It will take several more years of work before we start seeing educational programs as a result of this project.
- There is an effort to develop a National EMS Information System. The project consists of developing a whole pool of data points regarding patient care and makes them available for individual states to collect using the patient ambulance records. The participating states will then pool their information into a national data base. By using the set elements everyone will be using the same definitions for each data point which will make the information more accurate. No one will be required to use every one of the data points. Each state will be able to identify which points they would like to use and what data they would like to collect. The data would be taken by the individual ambulance organizations/departments then downloaded to the State. The States will then download their data into the national database. Take a look at their web site www.nemsis.org for further information and the proposed data points. The next part of the project will be to develop a schema and business model to get the information back to the national data base. This is a long-term effort.

Mr. Pete Chambers asked what the end goal on the data is. Ms. McHenry responded that the goals would be: 1) on a national level, to make educated policy decisions, 2) on a state level, to make policy decisions and evaluate their systems and 3) on a local level, to ensure quality of data and provide comparisons and trending of information.

Mr. Steve Reid of the DC Fire Dept inquired whether EMS reporting could be used along with the current National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Ms. McHenry responded that the systems would not be “married up” but would like the ability to exchange and import vital information between the two systems. NFIRS is not a patient care record where NEMSIS will include patient care data.

Ms. McHenry will provide information about future meeting times for this project to everyone. **(Action item)**

Mr. Steve Homoki asked why doesn't NHTSA pool the elements of the current FARS and CODES data bases. Ms. Henry responded that NEMSIS is a medical record. The other two databases do not collect the information that NEMSIS wants to collect.

USFA: Mr. Bill Troup, Mr. Jeff Dyar, Mr. Hugh Wood

Mr. Troup advised that they were performing best practices evaluations in fire departments across the US. They just finished fire tanker safety and will bring literature/report to next meeting. **(Action item)**

Mr. Wood asked that information be provided to NATEK on how colleges can get information **(Action item)**. He also asked if there is anything happening with chemical/bio masks, suits, protection, etc.

Mr. Troup advised that Mr. Bob McCarthy is involved with this and has worked on protective clothing issues.

Mr. Dyar reported on two new courses: EMS Management of Community Health Risk, a 2 week data-driven course to help determine local health risks, and Advanced Safety Operations Management, a safety approach to teach risk management and how to develop risk management plans.

Under the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA anticipates to fill the same role as before.

Mr. Dyar asked if the group could help each other find good data sources. There are no good data sources for ambulance injuries for research.

NTIS: Ms. Lu Lathan

Ms. Lathan reported that as part of the Department of Commerce, they help other government agencies to produce and distribute their training programs. She distributed a folder of information and indicated they would like to bring everything under one umbrella and get more collective information into their database so that it is readily available to meet the needs of potential trainers/agencies for immediate use.

NIOSH: Ms. Nancy Romano

Ms. Romano reported on the project of evaluating restraint systems to be used by EMS personnel in the back of the ambulance. They are looking at sled testing in Canada, and crash testing ambulances in June/July with the chosen restraint systems in place. The Canadian army is interested in placing litters in the back of the ambulances when they are crash tested to see how they survive the crash.

There were a series of articles published in the Detroit News regarding ambulance safety issues. Ms. Romano will get a copy to anyone that needs them or look at www.firehouse.com web site for links to the articles.

The CDC MMWR – Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on Feb. 28, 2003 published the report Ambulance Crash-Related Injuries Among Emergency

Medical Services Workers – United States, 1991-2002. Ms. Romano has copies of the report if anyone is interested

Trauma – EMS: Mr. Terry Mullins

Mr. Mullins announce a continuing grant application for 48 states and a competitive grant available for 14 states not involved in the current grant process. A meeting will be held April 30, 2003 for those involved in EMS trauma issues in DC area. A leadership meeting will be held September 22 –24, 2003 for trauma and EMS. There will be presentations of best practices regarding trauma and EMS issues. All programs under branch now will remain there under HRSA.

VI. REPORTS-OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

Mr. Dave McGinnis inquired if we had heard back on the HHS clarifications letter, what are the implications of state laws versus federal law on AED usage? **(Action Item)** To follow-up.

Mr. Chambers indicated that the ambulance industry is frustrated and there is a series of litigation about to occur. We need a stronger standard that's scientific and protocols so they can be measured and tested under different conditions.

Mr. Dyar asked if anyone if anyone was pushing crash testing; there was no response.

Ms. McHenry indicated that we should applaud what NIOSH is doing, but that although there is a need to look at the issue, we should see where it leads before we go testing all the ambulances.

IAFF: Mr. Jonathan Moore (by phone)

Mr. Moore reported that there would be an EMS conference June 11-14, 2003. Details are on the website. He further reported that 61 facilities were facing layoffs as EMS systems are being downsized. Also there will be a Redmond IFF Symposium in October –see the website for details.

AAA: Brenda Staffan

Ms. Staffin reported there would be an American Ambulance Association Celebration to honor the work performed in local communities.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Wood noted that USFA would be looking at the creation of metro Incident Management Teams (IMTs) that may be established and integrated into the national response system. USFA will be developing training for these teams.

VIII. NEXT MEETING:

Date and Time: June 5, 2003, 10:30 a.m.

Location: USFA, Emmitsburg, MD
Building/Room Number TBD

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments, Mr. Dyar made a motion to adjourn. Motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS

DOCUMENTS/MATERIALS Distributed:**DISTRIUBUTED BY:****Brochures:**

The Critical Infrastructure Protection Process	USFA, John Brasko
NTIS folder (listing of training programs they provide)	NTIS, Lu Lathan
Ambulance Crash Study	NATEK, Sandy McMinn

Articles Mentioned:

Detroit News	NIOSH, Nancy Romano
CDC MMWR – Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report	NIOSH, Nancy Romano

If you are interested in copies of the above attachments, please contact NATEK or the person(s) above.